



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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SEPTEMBER 1991

NO. 1

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RaRa

by WB2SUN, Pete Secrist

As we enter our 60th year as an ARRL affiliated special service club, this year promises to be exciting. The board is working on a special celebration later this year, included will be a special event station. Your board is also planning a celebration dinner. Details will be published in upcoming "Rag" issues. Plan on these to happen in the month of December.

John Schooley, K2NC, has stepped down as our License Testing Director. Thanks to John for his work as licensing director for the past 10 years. This is an accomplishment that deserves our thanks. He has assisted in examinations for over 3,000 applicants. Bob Fortman, WE2T, will be assuming the responsibility as our new licensing director. We wish him well in his new assignment.

Ed Gable, K2MP, this fall is stepping down as Licensing Course Director. He has been instructing for the past 30 years. Many of us have had the privilege of his teaching talent. This fall as the instructors teach the classes, his absence will be noted. The teachers will share more of the administrative tasks that Ed assumed. Thanks to Ed for a job well done.

On a personal note, I received a letter of thanks for the work I did as an instructor for the licensing class last spring. The letter was from a parent of one of the students. That one letter of thanks made all of the trips to 111 Westfall Road worthwhile. Also, it makes looking forward to teaching this fall more enjoyable.

On another subject, there are many benefits we as RaRa members may take for granted. This copy of the "Rag" is one, as well as the Directory we publish. The list of other benefits far outweighs any negatives. I will be writing about more of these benefits in future articles. 73's

RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES

In continuous operation for 35 years, RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of it's Fall 1991 Code and Theory classes. This session is offered for Novice and Tech/General.

The classes begin Monday evening, September 23rd, at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium at 111 Westfall Road. The classes will meet each Monday evening for approximately 13 weeks depending on which course you're taking. The instructor will have details. No advanced registration is required, just show up! ARRL text materials will be used.

The total cost for the entire 13 week program, including membership dues, registration and all material is \$29.00 for Novice, \$35.00 for Technician, and \$16.00 for General. Subtract the cost of dues if already a member of RaRa.

A NEW SEASON IS HERE

by Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU

It is always a little sad to see summer come to an end. However, with the start of a new season comes RaRa meetings; a time to get together with old friends and to meet new ones.

The September meeting will be held at the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, at 8:00 p.m. on September 6th. The speaker at this meeting will be Rick Palm of the ARRL. Come on out and see what new things are taking place within the League. Also, you can enjoy a cup of coffee and an eye ball with your friends after the meeting.

This year is the 60th Anniversary of RaRa's affiliation with the ARRL. The Board of Directors will be working on many ideas to make this an interesting year. For example special event stations are in the works and even a banquet to celebrate.

It is hoped that future meetings will be as interesting also. Potential presentations could be on Robotics, Radio on the Railroad, The Workings of WHAM and WVOR with a possible tour, and many other topics. So plan on joining us and stay for the coffee and doughnuts following the meetings.

This is a new RaRa season; one you can enjoy! The Board is looking forward to it and to seeing all of you each month.

the **RaRa Rag**

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RaRa TEST SCHEDULE 1991-92

by Bob, WE2T, 716-334-1103

Ham Radio exams are normally held by the RaRa VE's on the third Saturday of each month, September thru April; except when a Hamfest or other important event falls on that day. In this case the second Saturday will be used, as is the case this month, September.

Saturday, September 14
Saturday, October 19
Saturday, November 16
Saturday, December 21
Saturday, January 18, 1992
Saturday, February 15, 1992
Saturday, March 21, 1992
Saturday, April 18, 1992

Place: Monroe Social Services Building
111 Westfall Road
Cafeteria

8:30 a.m. – Registration
9:00 a.m. – Exams Start

Walk in or mail to: 65 Aleta Drive, Rochester, NY 14623

Applicants should bring the following in addition to a pencil and pen:

2 forms of identification –
Picture Drivers License good
Original FCC license
Copy of FCC license

Certificate of Completion – if credit claimed for elements passed at another test session
Copy of above

\$5.25 fee – exact change helpful – if paying by check, make it out to W5YI-VEC

It is important to make photo copies in advance of the test session since there is no copy machine at the test site.

The fee remains at \$5.25 until January 1992 when it will be increased by the FCC; this will be reported in a future *Rag*.

We are prepared for handicapped applicants, please phone me in advance.

As reported in the June *Rag*, exam sessions are also conducted on the last Thursday of each month at 565 Blossom Road by Paul, 716-586-5843.

We can always use more VE's, andy Extra Class Amateur seriously interested in this program and willing to participate often, please phone me.

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Amateur Radio News Service

WANTED: COLLINS - Bob, WE2T, 716-334-1103.

MYSTERIOUS DEAD CARRIER

by Keith Beard, WE6R, Pacific Grove

While scanning the 402 to 430 Mhz band the other day my radio stopped on a very strong carrier on 426.8 MHz. It was a dead carrier, I checked several receivers thinking I was getting an image of my own receiver. But nope, the signal was there too. A-HA!, it must be the local oscillator of some other radio I have on around the shack.

After several minutes of turning off scanners, HTs, transceivers, the TV, my pagers etc., the signal was still there! Humm?, probably some link channel or the like, but after monitoring for most of the day and hearing nothing but dead carrier (and no ID), I became more puzzled. Not having time to DF it, I forgot about it for a few days and when I checked it again, sure enough it was still there. So, I took my HT on my next trip across town (Monterey, CA).

This has got to be a very high power, high level transmitter I thought as the meter was pegged the whole time. OK, time to check it out on my next trip to the Santa Cruz side of the bay. Wow, seems to be nearly pegged over there also, but a bit weaker. Maybe a spur from some transmitter on a peak overlooking the bay.

Back in Monterey and heading for Pacific Grove I drove through the tunnel near Fisherman's Wharf expecting the signal to completely drop out. It didn't!! In fact it continued to peg the S-Meter.

Then it dawned on me, I reached down and turned off my 440 pager and just like magic the signal disappeared! When I had done the testing at home I forgot about this pager which is my second 440 pager. It was sitting across the room. It is tuned to a frequency of 444.7 Mhz. The local oscillator is 17.9. Now if you subtract those two figures it come out to 425.8 MHz.

I felt kind of dumb but couldn't help but laugh at myself as I looked back at all the time I spent DF'ing a signal coming from the belt on my pants.

*Thanks NPS Scuttlebutt, Monterey, CA
via The Readout*

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 6 - RaRa meeting, - 8:00 p.m.
Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland
- 13 - VHF Group
- 14 - Amateur Exams, 111 Westfall Road,
8:30 a.m.
- 20 - RRRRA
- 21 - Buffalo Hamfest and Computerfest
- 28 - Elmira Hamfest & Computerfest

E.T. CALL HOME

The Science and Technology Section of the November 10 1990 Economist has a fascinating article on the search for intelligent life in nearby solar systems. In 1960, Frank Drake, a radio astronomer at the Green Bank radio telescope, turned to listening for radio messages from other intelligent species. Technology has advanced such that projects soon to come on line will be able to scan specific frequencies in a millisecond what it took 200 hours to scan in 1960. The search is concentrated in the 1 to 10 GHz range, radio beacons as narrow as .05 hertz are scanned.

By using electronic filters incoming signals can be split into 8M channels each of which can be analyzed separately. A band 400,000 Hz wide can be studied at one time. A new band can be scanned every 20 seconds. Even at this rate it will still take 4,000 years to look at every frequency between 1 and 10 GHz. Bigger systems are in the planning stage which will allow 6 billion channels to be examined at a time. To eliminate redundant or unlikely frequencies, some effort is being given to centering the search around specific frequencies such as the frequency at which hydrogen absorbs and emits radio waves, 1.42 GHz. Doppler shift effects have also been considered. Scientists have assumed that any species advanced enough to send such a signal would also take such variances into account.

The search for radio signals from outer space has taken on new urgency as QRM has started to rear its ugly head in these upper reaches of the spectrum. Satellite broadcasting and portable phones have resulted in pressure from commercial users to gain access to frequencies possibly used by E.T. and friends on their ultimate DXpedition. The unanswered question at the heart of all this research will be what to do if or when a signal from a distant life form is monitored ... and how does one get his/her/its QSL?

*de Michael Pilon, VE3BUP
via The Groundwave*

BRIEFS

● On May 20 The Federal Register published an editorial amendment to FCC Rules Section 97.303(b), effectively eliminating, as of June 28, the need for radio amateurs operating on the 220-MHz band to protect the government radio-location service from harmful interference. This in effect raises amateurs' status on the band.

FCC'S SCANNER LAW

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

de Matt Wilson, WA1TPX
via Harmonics

This article contains:

1. Brief summary
2. List of FCC's 9 questions
3. How to comment to FCC

This is not an exhaustive history of this Notice of Inquire. The reader is directed to any of the fine Amateur Radio publications for complete background. From the summary information below, however, interested persons can learn enough to comment to the FCC.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The FCC is studying whether to pre-empt local and state "scanner laws" that may interfere with a licensed amateur's ability to have and transport radios that may receive public safety frequencies including police, fire, medical, etc. The FCC also wants to know whether such laws impede the activities of licensees in the General Mobile Radio Service or other services.

The preemption would only be for FCC licensees; the FCC is not examining whether to strike down the scanner laws entirely. The formal name of this proceeding is PR Docket 91-36 In the Matter of Inquiry into the Need to Preempt State and Local Laws Concerning Amateur Operator Use of Transceivers Capable of Reception Beyond the Amateur Service Frequency Allocations.

The FCC has the authority to preempt local and state laws where it can be shown that such laws impede federal regulation of radio communication and the accomplishment of legitimate federal regulation of radio communication and the accomplishment of legitimate federal goals. An example of FCC preemption was the famous "PRB-1", where the Commission preempted local laws that prevent amateurs from having adequate antennas. PRB-1 is now part of the Part 97 amateur rules.

The FCC has not proposed to take any specific action. It is merely inquiring further into scanner laws after receiving some comments last year. The comments came from hams and organizations such as ARRL, Association of North American Radio Clubs, Associated Public Safety Communications Officers and the Personal Radio Steering Group.

QUESTIONS

Here are the questions the FCC wants the Amateur Service and any other interested parties

to answer. They are taken directly from NOI Section III, paragraph 10:

1. Is there VHF or UHF mobile (or portable) amateur equipment now being manufactured that complies with the state and local laws in question? If so, give the purchase costs and the make and model numbers.

2. What percentage of existing VHF or UHF mobile amateur equipment has a reception capability (a) only on amateur service bands, (b) on the amateur bands plus a capability just beyond the amateur bands (within 25 KHz of the band edge), and (c) on the amateur bands plus a capability on (at least) any of the public safety or special emergency services channels? What are the above percentages when calculated only in the context of equipment that is currently being manufactured (as opposed to equipment that no longer is manufactured or is built by an amateur)? What are the purchase costs for such equipment?

3. What percentage of amateur operators purchase and use manufactured mobile equipment?

4. What is necessary technically for manufacturers to produce equipment that complies with the laws, and what are the associated costs?

5. What is required technically to modify amateur equipment that is capable of receiving on police radio service channels or other public safety or special emergency services channels to eliminate such reception capability, and what is the cost associated with such modification? Does the intercategory sharing permitted in the private land mobile services and diversity of frequency restrictions throughout the country affect the technical requirements or costs of such modifications?

6. What specific instances have occurred where the state and local laws in question have adversely affected amateur radio operation?

7. Is there a public interest in having amateur equipment available that can receive non-amateur frequencies, e.g. an interest in providing a pool of equipment that facilitates emergency operations in states where local authorities expressly desire the assistance of amateur licensees?

8. Given that the amateur radio equipment market is essentially world-wide, what would be the effect, if any, on the availability and price of amateur equipment if United States requirements were made more restrictive than those of the rest of the world? Do any other countries have restrictions on amateur radio transceiver receipt of public safety transmissions?

9. What effect do the scanner laws have on the interstate transport of equipment by amateur licensees?

HOW TO COMMENT

Your comments are due on or before June 7, 1991. Replies to what others have commented are due on or before July 8, 1991. There are three ways to comment:

(a) You may file informally by sending one copy of a letter. (I do not recommend this because the FCC staff can lose your letter, misunderstand it or misfile it.)

(b) You may file formally by sending a **SIGNED ORIGINAL plus FIVE COPIES** of your comments. This is the standard way to do it.

(c) If you want each Commissioner to receive a copy of your comments, send a **SIGNED ORIGINAL plus NINE COPIES**. This does not obligate the Commissioner to retain **OR EVEN READ** your comments.

It's smart to include your name and callsign.

Your comments **MUST** say "PR DOCKET 91-36" at a prominent place on the first page. Preferably this should be on every page. Without this information, your comment might not get to its proper destination. Those FCC recycling bins are big and hungry.

My experience has shown that the following do not help the cause:

(a) Form letters, multi-party signed petitions, etc. where it is apparent that **SOMEONE ELSE** told you exactly what to say.

(b) Smudged pages, illegible handwritten material or low-density computer print-out, QSL cards, pictures of your shack, spouse, pets, etc.

(c) Comments sent to your local FCC office, to the Private Radio Bureau, to homes of the FCC staff members, or other wrong addresses. Your comments need only be addressed to:

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECIPROCAL OPERATING UPDATED

The FCC on May 24 issued its latest list of countries with which the United States has reciprocal Amateur Radio operating agreements; copies of the list are available from ARRL for an SASE.

The FCC notes that aliens seeking such permits should obtain and complete FCC form 610-A (also available from ARRL), then return the form along with a photocopy of the applicant's Amateur Radio license to the FCC, PO Box 1020, Gettysburg PA 17326. Special provisions apply to Canadians, whose reciprocal privileges are automatic; no paperwork is required.

Operator privileges are those authorized by the alien permittee's own government but do not exceed those of the FCC Amateur Extra Class operator.

Reciprocal operators sign W1/their own call sign (for example), except Canadians are required to sign their own VE call sign/W1 (for example).

United States citizens are not eligible for an FCC-issued reciprocal operating permit, even if they hold dual citizenship in another country. Alien Amateur Radio operators who "will be in the United States for extended periods of time are encouraged to obtain an FCC amateur service license".

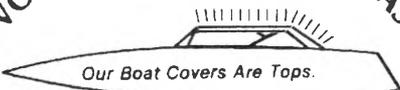
An alien holding an FCC license is not eligible for a reciprocal operating permit; his FCC license supersedes any FCC-issued reciprocal operating permit held. *Tnx ARRL Letter*

BRIEFS

● FCC figures for April show 5,749 new amateur licenses issued as well as 3,239 upgrades. Since the codeless Technician class license was born on February 14 more than four thousand new amateurs have joined our ranks as Techs.

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ICE STORM 91

ROCHESTER/MONROE COUNTY, NY

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

In the early morning hours of Monday, March 4, 1991, the skies over Rochester and Monroe County started to explode with lights and sounds of explosions filling the heavy early morning air. The sky, which hung heavy with rain and mist gave a glittering background for the sights and sounds of electric wires breaking and falling, causing arcing as they hit trees, houses and the ground. Trees began to break and fall under the weight of tons of ice that had been building up on everything since early Sunday evening, March 3rd.

This was the beginning of the Ice that was to cause wide spread destruction over all of Monroe County and parts of several surrounding counties. The storm started with rain in the early evening hours of Sunday and would continue for a little over seventeen hours. The buildup of ice on everything was incredible in such a brief period of time. This storm was to cause hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and the destruction of thousands of trees, leaving broken trees, limbs, wires and poles covering the landscape.

The Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness was activated and manned by 0500 hrs Monday, March 4th. The Monroe County Emergency Coordinator was called at 0800 hrs to activate ARES/RACES to establish communications for the American Red Cross. This was, at the outset, a very difficult problem since after cutting trees off the car, making it possible to exit the driveway, he had gone to pump the basement of his son who was already at work with the local utility. After making several calls, he was able to locate a member of ARES/RACES who was able to make it out of his road and proceed to the MCOEP and activate the club station of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, K2JD. The station was to stay on the air around the clock for one-hundred fifty hours. The EC/RO arrived at the station at 1200 hrs and started an assessment of what would be required over the next few days. The major job for ARES/RACES would be the establishment of communications between the Red Cross disaster office, the Red Cross at the EOC and the various shelters they were opening.

The process became very tedious due to the extensive areas involved in the storm and the inability of operators to respond. The calls made to enlist the services of amateur operators were either met with no answer, either by radio or phone with many of those that could be reached unable to respond due to flooded basements, trees

down and unable to get out of the driveway or street, no power nor heat in the house and having to attend to their families needs.

The decision was made to staff the Red Cross Disaster Office and the MEOEP on a twenty-four hour basis and the eight shelters that were set up, on a sixteen hour shift from 1600 to 0800 hrs each day. This was the schedule to be in effect from Monday noon till Sunday at 1600 hrs. We were able to enlist the services of 51 operators during the period with many of them working twelve hour shifts and some even working twenty-four shifts.

We have had in place for many years a 2M station at the Red Cross disaster services office and a complete station at the MCEOC located in the Monroe County Office Building. We have also been in the process of installing a complete packet station in the club station, one at the Red Cross and one at the National Weather Service Office located at the Greater Rochester International Airport. We decided to test the packet link between the EOC and the Red Cross for message handling. This turned out to be very successful as a constant link. The stations were on throughout the duration of our activity and remained connected around the clock. Voice communications took place entirely on 2M FM using the facilities of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association repeater on 146.28/88 with the complete cooperation of RRRA and all the Amateurs in the area. We did not have a single incident involving interference during the entire time we were on the air.

The local amateurs can be proud of the service that was provided to the people of Monroe County, both those that were actively involved and those that respected the need for a clear frequency. This storm, tho only 17 hours and 7 minutes in duration, took two weeks before all people had electric power restored to their homes. Telephone service was not completely restored for three weeks and cable television for some, took four weeks.

This was the worst storm to hit the Monroe county area during this century and will take many years for a complete recovery.

These are some of the statistics from the storm and have been derived from several sources:

1. 200,000 customers were out of power at the peak of the storm.
2. 50% of the electric system was out of power.
3. 9,200 people were sheltered during the storm.
4. 300+ electric poles would be replaced.
5. 959 electric crews working from all over the northeast.
6. 347+ electric transformers were replaced.
7. 1,500 man hours worked by amateurs.
8. 1,000,000 feet of wire was replaced.

There were, at the peak of the storm, 959 electric crews and 750 telephone crews working. The normal number of crews for the Rochester Gas and Electric is 51. There were 3100 workers working for the Rochester Gas and Electric at the peak with 1420 employees and 1680 contractors. RG&E received 300,000 telephone calls during the storm which is the normal number for six months.

This will be just another one of those events that Amateur Operators played an important part in and can feel proud that they were able to demonstrate the professionalism that is the hallmark of the Amateur Service.

Those that help out at the time of the Ice Storm were: WB2MDO, KB2CHY, N2DPF, W2DBU, KB2CHZ, N2HKD, KA2LFN, W2YGW, WB2EKP, N2BEL, N2CTC, K2MP, KB2HYT, N2KZF, AF2K, KB2BLS, WB2BWQ, K2SSB, N2HXJ, KB2HOL, KB2KWO, N2EVG, N2EH, N2HHV, K2YA, N2JBQ, KA2UTI, N2IZT, WA2CER, KA2GBU, WW2E, NF2Z, KE2WH, K2DHR, KA2NBK, KA2J, KD2UR, N2LIB, N2EZB, N2IZY, WB2SUN, N2EKR, N2HJD, N1DPH, KA2SSC, N2KGH, NS9E, N2KVZ, N2BNE, G4GQU/W2, WD4FGU.

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SEPTEMBER 21, 1991



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Rochester HAMFEST

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IT'S OFFICIAL — A NEW DXCC COUNTRY IS HATCHED!

The DX Century Club list will grow from 322 "countries" to 323 on September 1, 1991, with the addition of the Penguin Islands. The Penguins, sitting off the coast of the west African country of Namibia, are claimed by South Africa. In June 1990, DXCC country status for this group of 13 islands was applied for.

After studying the application, the ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) on May 17, 1991, voted 9 - 5 with two abstentions to recommend DXCC country status for the Penguins.

This recommendation was affirmed by the ARRL Awards Committee on May 30 by a unanimous vote.

QSL cards for DXCC credit for the Penguin Islands may be submitted to Headquarters beginning September 1, 1991. Cards received before that date will be returned without credit.

There have been two recent operations from the Penguin Islands, according to QRZ DX: German and South African operators signed DL8CM/ZS1 and ZS9AAA/1 (plus ZS9A/1 on 6 meters) in July 1990. In December 1990 ZS9Z/1 was active.

Tnx ARRL Letter

THE AMATEURS

There's something about them you've got to admire,

They work for the love of the task, not for hire. Every one of them's blessed with the heart of a boy,

What's a job to the drudge unto them is a joy. While we to our regular schedules are keeping, The amateurs do without eating and sleeping. They worry their wives - - since so short is a day They don't get to bed when they should, but they stay

Sending calls on the air; catching calls from afar And I think as I hear them how patient they are. How much better we'd work here if only we knew it In that amateur spirit of wanting to do it. Professionals weary - sometimes and they shirk Since they're paid to perform they look on it as work.

They begin with reluctance; they're glad when they're through

And they measure in money whatever they do. But the amateur never begrudges a minute He goes to the job for the joy that is in it.

So here's to the amateurs - brave hearted throng

Though short be their waves, may their lives all be long.

May the wisdom they gain and the joys which they reap

Make up for the nights when they go without sleep. And may we - in the spirit and deep understanding Of work and its joy - Keep our amateur standing.

*Edgar A. Guest, 1934
via RAGS Review*

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